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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Second Quarter Stats Reveal Increased Demand For SBA Backed Loans During FY 2006

**HELENA, MT** – More Montana businesses used SBA guaranteed loans to start and expand their companies during the first six months of the current fiscal year (October 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006), than in the same period last year.

During the first half of 2006, the Montana SBA District Office approved 252 loans totaling \$38,575,734 compared to 235 loans worth \$36,874,950 in the same period last year. Of the 252 loans, 243 were approved under SBA's flagship 7(a) guaranteed loan program, and nine loans totaling \$4,329,000 were made through the 504 Certified Development Company Program, a program that provides growing businesses with long-term fixed-rate financing for major fixed assets, such as land and buildings. New business accounted for 87 of the loans totaling \$11,340,000. Eating and drinking establishments, wholesale trade and durable goods, furniture and home furnishing, special trade contractors, professional, scientific and technical services were among the most frequently financed businesses. Forty eight loans totaling \$5,534,050 were made to women owned businesses, 43 loans totaling \$10,094,800 were made to veterans, and twenty loans totaling \$7,714,850 went to minority owned businesses.

### The following lenders exceeded \$1.0 million in total SBA loan volume:

(These figures **DO NOT** include participation in 504 CDC Financing)

Bank Name	Bank City	Dollars	Number of Loans
Yellowstone Bank	Billings	\$5,356,700.00	22
Mountain West Bank National Association	Bozeman	\$4,790,300.00	18
Banco Popular North America	New York City	\$3,196,000.00	4
Stockman Bank of Montana	Billings	\$3,185,250.00	13
Valley Bank of Helena	Helena	\$1,326,900.00	20
First Interstate Bank	Missoula	\$1,288,500.00	7
Heritage Bank	Billings	\$1,095,100.00	5

**The following lenders approved five or more loans:**

<b>Bank Name</b>	<b>Bank City</b>	<b>Dollars</b>	<b>Number of Loans</b>
Yellowstone Bank	Billings	\$5,356,700.00	22
Valley Bank of Helena	Helena	\$1,326,900.00	20
Business Loan Center, LLC	Panama City Beach	\$617,000.00	20
Mountain West Bank National Association	Bozeman	\$4,790,300.00	18
Capital One Federal Savings Bank	McLean	\$470,000.00	17
Stockman Bank of Montana	Billings	\$3,185,250.00	13
U.S. Bank National Association	Cincinnati	\$283,600.00	10
Community Bank – Missoula, Inc.	Missoula	\$453,200.00	9
First Interstate Bank	Missoula	\$1,288,500.00	7
Mountain West Bank National Association	Missoula	\$703,404.00	6
Stockman Bank of Montana	Sidney	\$361,100.00	6
Western Security Bank	Billings	\$221,800.00	6
Wells Fargo Bank National Association	Helena	\$955,000.00	6
Wells Fargo Bank National Association	Great Falls	\$358,000.00	6
Farmers State Bank	Victor	\$390,800.00	5
First Security Bank – Missoula	Missoula	\$467,000.00	5
Heritage Bank	Billings	\$1,095,100.00	5

**Certified Development Company – 504 Loans**

<b>Bank Name</b>	<b>Dollars</b>	<b>Number of Loans</b>
Big Sky Economic Development Corporation	\$2,266,000.00	3
Montana Community Finance Corporation	\$2,063,000.00	6

**The following counties exceeded \$1.0 million in loans:**

<b>County Name</b>	<b>Dollars</b>	<b>Number of Loans</b>
Yellowstone County	\$11,719,050.00	56
Gallatin	\$6,964,030.00	38
Missoula	\$4,416,604.00	34
Lewis and Clark	\$2,814,500.00	34
Flathead	\$2,590,000.00	9
Cascade	\$2,361,000.00	23
Fergus	\$2,246,000.00	4

**The following counties with ten or more loans:**

<b>County Name</b>	<b>Dollars</b>	<b>Number of Loans</b>
Yellowstone	\$11,719,050.00	56
Gallatin	\$6,964,030.00	38
Missoula	\$4,416,604.00	34
Lewis and Clark	\$2,814,500.00	34
Cascade	\$2,361,000.00	23

**The following holding companies exceeded \$1.0 million in loans:**

<b>Bank Name</b>	<b>Dollars</b>	<b>Number of Loans</b>
Mountain West Financial Corporation	\$6,080,704.00	27
Yellowstone Holding Company	\$5,404,700.00	23
Stockman Financial Corporation	\$4,745,750.00	22
Popular, Inc.	\$3,196,000.00	4
Glacier Bancorp, Inc.	\$2,422,700.00	35
WFC Holdings Corporation	\$2,286,130.00	24
First Interstate Bancsystem, Inc.	\$1,831,200.00	12
United Financial Corp.	\$1,544,100.00	9
Montana Community Banks, Inc.	\$1,203,200.00	13

**The following holding companies approving ten or more loans:**

<b>Bank Name</b>	<b>Dollars</b>	<b>Number of Loans</b>
Glacier Bancorp, Inc.	\$2,422,700.00	35
Mountain West Financial Corporation	\$6,080,704.00	27
WFC Holdings Corporation	\$2,286,130.00	24
Yellowstone Holding Company	\$5,404,700.00	23
Stockman Financial Corporation	\$4,745,750.00	22
Business Loan Express, LLC	\$617,000.00	20
Capital One Financial Corporation	\$470,000.00	17
Montana Community Banks, Inc.	\$1,203,200.00	13
First Interstate Bancsystem, Inc.	\$1,831,200.00	12
U.S. Bancorp	\$283,000.00	10

For additional information, please contact the SBA Montana District Office at (406) 441-1081.